

Lesson 30

Time Case

Vocabulary

anadal	meal [ana (food) + dal (thing)]
dide	to be early
náa-	Prefix (verb): to resume VERBing; to start VERBing again
nóo-	Prefix (verb): to pause in VERBing; to interrupt VERBing
obée	during
udath	noon
ulanin	to study [ulin (school)]
weman	winter (season)
wemen	spring (season)
wemon	autumn; fall (season)
wuman	summer (season)

The verb “ulanin” (to study) is clearly derived from—or at least closely akin to—the noun “ulin” (school).

Additional Vocabulary

There are a few more words we can introduce here. They’re new vocabulary, but they’re composed of straightforward combinations of words & word-parts that we’ve seen before. Láadan makes creating new words—and deciphering the words so created—easy.

háanáal	evening [háa- (child/young) + náal (night)]
háasháal	morning [háa- (child/young) + sháal (day)]
hathobéeya	postposition: until [hath (time) + obée (during) + -ya (TIME)]
híyahath	week [híya (small) + hath (time)]
nanáal	sunset [na- (begin) + náal (night)]
nasháal	dawn [na- (begin) + sháal (day)]
udathihée	afternoon [udath (noon) + ihée (beyond)]

In addition to the postposition “obée” (during) above, there are two more words we’ve already discussed that can be used as postpositions of time. “Eril” (the past auxiliary) can mean “before” or “earlier,” and (as we’ve seen in one of our Time Out lessons) “aril” (the future auxiliary) can mean “after” or “later”. These concern time—as distinct from “ihé” (in front of; before) and “ihée” (behind; beyond; after) which locate objects relative to other objects in space.

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Time Case

[VP CP–S CP–Time]

To mark a Case Phrase as Time, add the ending “-ya.” This ending specifies an event or state as being at a particular location in time.

Along with the Time Case comes the conjunction “úyahú” (when). Not a question-word, “úyahú” introduces a clause that fulfills the Time case-role, as in the English sentence, “I know when the birds will sing.”

Suzette Haden Elgin coined a limited set of conjunctions like “úyahú.” Her formation in this set for “when” was “widahath” [wida (carry) + hath (time)]. We won’t be using it here, but you should recognize it if you should happen upon it.

Examples

Bíi hal le wa.	I work.
Bíi hal le náaleya wa.	I work at night.
Bíi hal le náaleya obée wa.	I work during the night.
Bíi hal le hadihad wa.	I always work.
Bíi hal le úyahú them hal le wa.	I work when I need to work.
Báa hal ne?	Do you work?
Báa hal ne bebáaya?	When do you work?
Bíi nahal le nasháaleya wa.	I begin working at dawn.
Bíi náhal le háasháaleya obe wa.	I continue working through the morning.
Bíi nóhal le anadaleya wa.	I pause work at mealtimes.
Bíi náahal le udathihéeya wa.	I resume working in the afternoon.
Bíi nóhal le nanáaleya wa.	I stop working at sunset.
Bíi nehal le sháaleya aril wa.	I work again the next day.
Bíi nohal le rahadihad wa.	I never finish working.
Bíi eril thi ra le dasheth woban lethaya wáa.	I didn’t have teeth at the time of my birth.

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Exercises

Translate the following into English.

- 1 Bii aril ham yul nanáaleya wa.
- 2 Bii melolin with woho wobaneya wi.
- 3 Báa ul nosháad eba Wílem betho bethedim miwithede wodide woháasháaleya?
- 4 Bii lothel emidá úyahú aril ulanin néehá shamideth wáa.
- 5 Bii eril mehamedara Bétheni i lan betho nedebe háanáaleya déelasha ranil wáa.
- 6 Báa rilrili thad láad Mázhareth ith óolethuth melasha bebáaya?

Of course you had no difficulty with “emidá” in #4; the core of the word is “mid” (creature); “emid” [e- (science of) + mid (creature)] means “biology;” “emidá” [emid (biology) + -á (doer)] means “biologist.”

1 En:

2 En:

3 En:

4 En:

5 En:

6 En:

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Incorporate the second noun as a Time; translate into English before and after.

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 7 | Báa eril bedi di Elízhabeth Láadan? | bebáa |
| 8 | Báa eril sháad Máthu beyedim? | wemon hathobéeya |
| 9 | Bíi aril menahabahal mewolirihul womahina menedebe wa. | wemen |
| 10 | Bóo duheb ne esheth boóthab hin. | udath eril |
| 11 | Bíi aril benem bedihá ulinesha wáa. | wuman obée |
| 12 | Báa eril redeb déelahá áruleth hemenesha nedebenil? | anadal aril |

Did you notice the word “beyedim” in #8? Could you tell that it was “beye” (someone/something) + “-dim” (GOAL)? This is how we form the concept “somewhither; to somewhere.” We should probably expect to be able to translate a number of English words using “beye” and its plural forms in various cases: “beyede” (somewhence; from somewhere); “beyesha” ((in/at) somewhere; someplace); “beyeya” (somewhen; sometime).

In #9, did the word “menahabahal” give you any difficulty? The prefix “me-” tells us it’s a plural verb, and “na-” tells us the verb is just beginning. The suffix “-hal” tells us the verb is unusually intense. That leaves us with “haba” or “aba”; contextually (in addition to having no vocabulary item “haba”), “mahina” (flower(s)) tend to be fragrant; we’d therefore expect the root of “menahabahal” to be “aba” (fragrant).

Were you able to define the word “árul” in #12? It’s composed of “á-” (infant) + “rul” (cat) and means “infant kitten.”

7 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

8 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

9 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

10 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

11 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

12 En: _____
 La: _____
 En: _____

Translate the following into Láadan.

- 13 The traveler sang at night about a perfect pearl, but the audience had lamps.
- 14 Will the entomologist gather insects from under the stones during working hours?
- 15 The strong healer gives the many wild animals food at dawn and when they are hungry.
- 16 The old man always slept in the afternoon; he was always alone in his house.
- 17 My cousin paused in going up the mountain last week; she'll resume next month.
- 18 The philosopher teaches entomology, biology, and philosophy to children year-round.

In #13, the “audience” are the ones “paying attention:” “ilá.”

In #14, were you able to devise a word for “entomologist”? Consider that an “entomologist” is one who “does entomology,” the science of insects. “Insect” in Láadan is “zhub”, so “entomology” is “ezhub.” A “doer of entomology”, or “entomologist”, would be “ezhubá”.

In #17, we see a new idiom; the root form is “sháal # AUX.” The “#” would be replaced with a number or quantifier (except in the special case of “sháal ril,” meaning “today”). In this set of idioms, where “#” would be “nede” (one), it may be omitted as assumed. So, “sháal nede eril” and “sháal eril” both mean “yesterday” (though “sháal nede eril” is the much more emphatic “one day ago”), “sháal shin eril” is “the day before yesterday”, and “sháal boó eril” is the day before that or “three days ago”. On the future side, “sháal nede aril” and “sháal aril” both mean “tomorrow”—with “sháal nede aril” (one day from now) again being much more emphatic—“sháal shin aril” is “the day after tomorrow” and “sháal boó aril” is the day after that or “three days from now”.

As we see here, we can extend the idiom by substituting another time period in place of “sháal”; some possibilities are “náal” (night), or “híyahath” (week) or “hathóol” (month) or a season or “hathóoletham” (year). I can even imagine a bureaucratic functionary behind a small window declaiming “With aril” (Next person).

Any case ending—such as “-ya” (TIME) or “-de” (SRC) or “-dim” (GOAL)—would go on the noun “sháal” or one of its substitutes.

In #18, were you able to decipher the meaning of “ehená?” This “-á” formation is not so transparent as some; the root of the word is “en” (to understand). Add the prefix “e-” (science of) to form “ehen” (philosophy: the science of understanding). Then add the suffix “-á” (doer) to form “ehená” (philosopher).

- 13 La: _____
- 14 La: _____
- 15 La: _____
- 16 La: _____
- 17 La: _____
- 18 La: _____

Notes _____

1 There will be wind (it will be windy) at sunset. 2 Everyone gathers at birth-time (of course). 3 Does William's spouse hope to arrive home from the city in the early morning? 4 The biologist knows when the alien will study domestic animals. 5 Bethany and her several friends danced in the evening outside the garden. 6 When might Margaret be able to perceive moonlight on the ocean?

7 Did Elizabeth learn to speak Láadan? Bâa eril bedi di Elizhabeth Láadan bebdâya? When did Elizabeth learn to speak Láadan? 8 Did Matthew go somewhere? Bâa eril shâd Mâthu beyedim wemoneya hathobêeya? Did Matthew go somewhere until autumn? 9 Many extremely colorful flowers will begin to be unusually fragrant. Bii eril menahabahal mewolirihul womahina mendebe wemeneya wa. Many extremely colorful flowers will begin to be unusually fragrant in spring. 10 Prithee try to sell these thirteen boats. Bôo duheb ne esheth boôthab hin udatheya eril. Prithee try to sell these thirteen boats before noon. 11 The student will stay at school. Bii eril benem bedihâ ulinesha wumaneya obêe wâa. The student will stay at school during the summer. 12 Did the gardener find the wee kitten among the (several) bushes? Bâa redeb délâhâ aruleth hemeneha nedebenil anadaleya aril? Did the gardener find the wee kitten among the (several) bushes after mealtime?

13 Bii eril lalom imâ woshad woneb bethu naaleya, izh methi ilâ ithedaleth wa. 14 Bâa aril buth ezhubâ zhubeth udesha ranol haleya obêe? 15 Bii ban wodo woduthahâ anath romidedim nashâleya i úyahû meyide ben wâa. 16 Bii eril dana wobalin wowithid udathihêeya hadihad; shoian be belid bethosha hadihad wa. 17 Bii eril nõohim edin lethâ boshâ rahab hiyahath aril; nahim be hathôoleya aril wa. 18 Bii om ehena ezhubeth, emideth, i eheneh hâawithedim hathôolethameya wum wa.

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